

"I feel like a different person when I'm rowing!"

What happens when you put 14 senior adults on Green Lake in crew boats? You have a LOT of fun and great outdoor exercise.

This innovative program, free learn-to-row classes for senior adults—was made possible with the coordination and support of the Green Lake Small Craft Center and its Advisory Council.

Marge Caddy, 69, is enthused about the many benefits of the class. "It is a wonderful physical program that gives you a high like running," she said. "I have never been able to find a substitute for running, that I had to quit because of my osteoporosis. I feel like a different person when I get done rowing."

Another participant, Jay Bush, used to row for the University of Washington back in the 1950s and joined his wife in this class. He marveled at the modernization of current rowing equipment. One woman in the class, 89 years old, rowed for the first time in her life.

The class could not have been provided if not for some excellent volunteers who included the Girls Junior Rowing Program at Green Lake and Lael Gidney from the Mount Baker Master rowing program.



Senior adult rowers at Green Lake.

Ken's Corner

City Council Approves Budget

On Nov. 22, the Seattle City Council approved the 2005-2006 biennial City budget. Mayor Nickels and I were pleased with the overall budget package. Said the Mayor, "The city is better off than it was three years ago. This budget makes progress on all four of the priorities I've set for the City- improving public safety, economic opportunity for all, building strong families and healthy communities and getting Seattle moving."

There will be no parking fees at designated regional parks and no admission fee to the Conservatory in Volunteer Park. Also, the Late Night Recreation Program will be fully funded.

Most of the other proposed cuts and fee increases were included in the final budget package, which amounted to about a \$4 million overall reduction from our 2004 budget.

Parks Re-organization

Reducing administrative costs was the major goal of our plan to re-organize Department operations and functions, but it was also a good opportunity to find efficiencies and streamline our overall organization.

We did this by combining the Operations and Recreation Support divisions, and creating a new Enterprise Division that will focus on revenue generating facilities and programs. The re-organization will save us about \$500,000 per year.

In the combined division, which will retain the name Operations, we will keep some geographic subdivision for park maintenance and recreation, and add functional sections. The following listing is the basic breakdown of this division, headed by current Operations Director, Christopher Williams:

- **Park Resources, North, Central East:** Royal Alley Barnes, Manager
- **Park Resources, South, Central West, Downtown:** Cheryl Fraser, Manager
- **Recreation, South:** Katie Gray, Manager
- **Recreation, Central:** Robert Stowers, Manager
- **Recreation, North:** Maureen A. O'Neill, Manager
- **Special Units** (volunteers, environmental stewardship, seniors, special populations):
Kathie Huus, Manager
- **Aquatics:** Kathy Whitman, Manager
- **Youth/Teen Programs:** Patti Petesch, Manager

Crew Chiefs and their assignments will not change.

Headed by current Magnuson Park Director, Eric Friedli, the Enterprise Division will include **Golf, Downtown Parks and South Lake Union, Performing and Visual Arts** (including Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center), **Special Facilities** (including Magnuson Park buildings), **Grants and Contracts**; and **Special Events**.

You can see that many of the names and positions are the same, but now are in a slightly different structure. We fully expect that this will make us more efficient and even better able to respond to the needs and desires of citizens and communities in Seattle. If you have any questions about our new look, please contact Christopher Williams at 206-684-4136 or christopher.williams@seattle.gov



Ken Bounds, Superintendent

Anna's Message

2004 Opportunity Fund Grant Recipients

Congratulations to this year's recipients of ARC Opportunity Fund grants.

2004 was the third year of operation for the ARC Advisory Council Opportunity Fund. This grant fund was established to allow advisory councils and ARC to donate money and/or request funds for programs and projects. Donations to the fund and grant requests for funding are accepted through the end of September of each calendar year. Grant requests are evaluated by an Opportunity Fund Committee elected each year at the ARC Annual General Meeting, and grants are awarded in October. Grant recipients attend the Annual General Meeting and talk about how they will use their funds.

Eleven grant requests were received in 2004, and seven of these requests were either fully or partially funded. A total amount of \$52,863 was awarded to support advisory council programs and projects. Following is a list of the 2004 grant awards:

- **Rainier Community Center Advisory Council** - \$10,000 to fund the upgrade and purchase of new hardware and software for Project Compute computer lab.
- **Rainier Beach Community Center Advisory Council** - \$5,000 to help create a new program that will replace the Late Night program for teens.
- **Discovery Park Advisory Council** - \$4,163 to buy materials to create discovery kits that can be checked out by participants to provide informal learning activities for children.
- **Magnolia Community Center Advisory Council** - \$8,500 to create a small computer center with two stations.
- **Bitter Lake Community Center Advisory Council** - \$5,200 to support the expansion of a leadership training and development program for at-risk teens.
- **South Park Community Center Advisory Council** - \$10,000 to develop and pilot a new program that will provide in-lab academic support and case management services to 20-30 core student participants in the computer lab.
- **Jefferson Community Center Advisory Council** - \$10,000 to create a new program where teens and grade school age children work together to create and present short video programs using clay animation.

Seventeen advisory councils and ARC donated money to the Opportunity Fund grant in 2004. The donations for 2004 ranged in size from \$500 to \$15,000.

I'd like to thank 2004 Opportunity Fund Committee members for their time and thoughtfulness in evaluating the grant requests and determining the awards. Committee members were: **Darrell Drew** (Chair), **Belinda Green**, **Susan Harmon**, **Sharon Mahsman**, **Julie Morse**, **Cleo Peifer**, and **Carol Richardson**.

Please join us at the 2005 ARC Annual General Meeting on February 28 to hear more about some of the past projects that were funded through Opportunity Fund grants.

—Anna Martin, Associated Recreation Council Board President

Credits

Anna Martin, ARC Board President

Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director

David Takami, Editor

For information or comments please call or e-mail David at 206-684-8020, david.takami@seattle.gov

City Acquires Discovery Park Lighthouse

Mayor Nickels announced on Oct. 14 that the U.S. Department of the Interior awarded the historic West Point Lighthouse in Discovery Park to the City for education, recreation, and park use. The property also includes two residences, a maintenance building, and 2.5 prime acres of waterfront property.

The West Point Light Station, as the lighthouse is known, became available in late 2002 for transfer to another government agency or nonprofit, educational, or community development organization under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. Parks submitted its application for consideration to the National Park Service (NPS) in early 2003.

After performing repairs to the building, we will open the lighthouse to the public for approximately 600 hours per year for environmental education and interpretation, other programming, and public tours.



Discovery Park Lighthouse

Alki Skate Night: The Tradition Continues

Alki Advisory Council recently invested \$9,000 to refinish the school gym floor and \$4,500 for new skates, keeping alive a long-standing community traditions: the Alki Family Skate Night.

Now in its 19th year, the popular skating program began on Oct. 1 this year with 65 participants thrilling to rock music and skating indoors. Skate night is sponsored by Alki Community Center and is held at nearby Alki Elementary School.

The cost is a very reasonable \$2 per skater.

Every Friday from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m., between 60 and 120 in-line and "quad" skaters of all ages do laps around the gym to a lively beat. Alki CC has skates to loan out or you can bring your own in lines or quads.

Join us at an upcoming skate night! Call 206-684-7430.

Denny Awards Honor Darrell Drew, Other Stellar Volunteers

For Magnolia Community Center Advisory Council President Darrell Drew, volunteering is a way to help others, but more than that, it “keeps a balance in my life.”

In November, Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Seattle Parks Foundation honored Darrell, two other individuals, and one organization with the second annual Denny Awards for volunteer service. In addition to Darrell, this year’s winners are **Al Smith, Amy Tsai**, and the **Starflower Foundation**.

Darrell Drew worked at a clothing store for 20 years in Magnolia Village, and now works at Carnolia Cleaners in the Village.

Darrell credits his father with instilling in him a drive to help others. At 62 years old, he has now been a community volunteer in the Magnolia community for more than 30 years. He has served on the Magnolia Chamber of Commerce and the Magnolia Community Club. He has been a volunteer docent at Discovery Park, where he gives nature tours every weekend, rain or shine. He also founded and now chairs the Magnolia Summer Festival Parade. And he has participated in almost every civic and volunteer opportunity in the neighborhood.

Darrell came to the Magnolia Community Center and Discovery Park seven years ago when he changed careers, leaving his evening hours free. Work as a docent at Discovery Park, and as a basketball coach and Advisory Council member fit the bill nicely.

Working at Discovery Park, he says, has been “a terrific addition to my life. It’s such a valuable program in that gives people the opportunity to experience nature and environmental education within the city.”

“We couldn’t do what we do at Seattle Parks and Recreation without the tremendous support of volunteers like Darrell Drew and other Denny Award winners,” said Ken Bounds. “These awards are a small token of our appreciation and esteem for the people and organizations who help us fulfill our mission to take care of the environment and provide safe and welcoming recreation opportunities.”

In 2003, hundreds of volunteers worked more than 225,000 hours for parks and recreation programs throughout the city, donating the equivalent of \$3.7 million in labor. The Denny Awards are named after David and Louisa Denny, who donated land for the first Seattle park in 1884 (Denny Park).



Christopher Williams, Darrell Drew, and Ken Bounds

Besides Darrell Drew, the 2004 award winners are:

- **Al Smith:** A founding member of the Friends of Seward Park, Al Smith is Seward Park’s greatest champion. He has been heavily involved in the effort to remove invasive English Ivy from the park’s old growth forest. He spends much of his free time working alone in the park, removing ivy and other invasive plants. He also has provided invaluable support for the Seward Park Environmental Learning Center and a teen environmental stewardship program called TREC.
- **Amy Tsai:** As volunteer park steward for the Northacres Park Off-Leash Area, Amy has committed her time and hard work to protecting native vegetation at the off-leash area, creating a unique and beautiful space for both dogs and their owners. Amy organizes and leads monthly volunteer “work parties” to take care of the park. She also led the effort to make Northacres a permanent off-leash site while it was still a pilot project.
- **Starflower Foundation:** Founded in 1996, Starflower Foundation provides grants in the form of in-kind donations and technical assistance to community groups involved in native plant restoration projects, especially in public parks. Projects Starflower has funded include restoration work at Roxhill Park, Greg Davis Park, Magnuson Park, Seward Park, Colman Park and the Pritchard Beach wetlands. The monetary value of Starflower’s contributions is more than \$1 million.

Other Denny Award nominees, all of whom made significant volunteer contributions to Seattle Parks and Recreation parks or programs, were:

- **Patrick Boland,**
Friends of Frink Park
- **Friends of Discovery Park**
- **Marilyn Firlotte,**
Green Lake Community Center Advisory Council
- **Sharon Gowdy,**
Special Programs Adult Summer Camp
- **George Hildreth,**
Volunteers of Lower Woodland Park
- **Ken Shaw,**
Schmitz Preserve Park
- **Robert R. Stephens, Jr.,**
Garfield Advisory Council
- **Darrell and Barbara Williams,**
Seattle Aquarium
- **Lauren and Glenn Yasuda,**
Annie’s Playground at Meadowbrook Playfield

Ken Bounds presented the awards on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at a ceremony and reception at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park.

Darrell Drew has some simple advice for people thinking about getting involved in their community: “Pick up the phone book or ask somebody to get involved,” he says. “Don’t just think about it.”

Short Takes

Yesler Advisory Council donation: The Yesler Advisory Council donated \$50,000 to support the new playground located behind the new community center. The new play area is part of the Yesler Community Center project currently being constructed. The overall value of the play area is \$150,000. The Yesler Community Center and Play Area will be completed in January 2005 and a grand opening is scheduled for Feb. 12, 2005.

Woman artists of Carkeek Park: On Nov. 20 and 21 a show at the Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center featured the public debut of paintings by Tillie Piper, the first art teacher in Seattle Public Schools, and daughter of A.W. Piper, for whom Piper's Creek was named. The show also featured artwork by Peggy Jacobs, Dorothy Gowdy, and Mindie McDonnell. Proceeds benefited the Carkeek Park Advisory Council and the Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center.



Halloween Fun at the International District/Chinatown Community Center, Bitter Lake CC, Jefferson CC, and Hiawatha CC.

Special Events

A sampling of upcoming special events:

Dec. 1-23

Christmas Ship Festival

various sites

See www.seattle.gov/parks for Festival schedule

Dec. 11

Green Lake Pathway of Lights

6 to 9 p.m.

Dec. 11

Alki Bathhouse Dedication & Christmas Ship Social

8 p.m.

Dec. 13

"Edge of Blue Light" play reading

A World AIDS Day event at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center. Call 206-684-4757 for information.

Dec. 17

Holiday parties

At Rainier, Yesler, Garfield, Van Asselt, Meadowbrook, Miller community centers and elsewhere.

Dec. 17, 18, 19, 21 22

Horse-drawn hay rides at Seward Park.

Call 206-684-4396 to sign up

Jan. 1

Polar Bear Swim

Matthews Beach Park

11:30 a.m.

Co-sponsored by Meadowbrook Pool and Meadowbrook Community Center Advisory Council

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